



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Legislative Affairs

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

February 3, 2006

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Minority Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

This responds to your letter of January 11, 2006, to Attorney General Gonzales reiterating your request for the appointment of an outside special counsel to investigate the circumstances surrounding the termination of Fred Black's tenure as the Acting United States Attorney for Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and to investigate whether Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff used his influence within the Department of Justice to attempt to prevent the release of a classified review of Guam and CNMI immigration laws. Identical responses are being sent to the other four Members, who joined in your letter to us.

As we indicated in our prior response, the Department of Justice, Office of the Inspector General, has initiated an investigation regarding Mr. Black's allegations concerning the termination of his tenure as Acting United States Attorney for Guam and the CNMI. If the Inspector General determines that there is evidence of a criminal violation, he will bring that information to an appropriate prosecuting office within the Department of Justice for review. As your letter acknowledges, the FBI is working with career prosecutors in the Department of Justice on an investigation regarding the activities of Mr. Abramoff. We want to again assure you that all such matters will be handled appropriately and impartially by dedicated career professionals in the Department of Justice, and the Department will take all steps that are necessary to insure public confidence in the fairness of such investigations.

We appreciate your writing to express your concerns. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

William E. Moschella  
Assistant Attorney General

cc: The Honorable Glenn Fine  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Justice